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[52433/664]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Kaoru FUJIMOTO, et al.

Serial No.

Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date

Herewith

Title

PROCESS FOR PREPARATION OF FORMATE ESTERS OR
METHANOL AND CATALYST THEREFOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the title:

-(Amended) PROCESS FOR PREPARATION OF FORMATE ESTERS OR
METHANOL AND CATALYST THEREFOR --

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-4 and 6-10 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

12. (New) A process for producing a formic ester, comprising reacting carbon monoxide with an alcohol to produce a formic ester, wherein the reaction is performed in the presence of an alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide, and/or an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst.
13. (New) A process for producing a methanol, comprising reacting carbon monoxide with an alcohol in the presence of an alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide, and/or an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst to produce a formic ester, wherein a hydrogenolysis catalyst for formic ester and hydrogen are allowed to be present together in the reaction system to hydrogenate the produced formic ester and thereby obtain a methanol.
14. (New) A process for producing a methanol, comprising reacting carbon monoxide with an alcohol in the presence of an alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide, and/or an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst to produce a formic ester, separating the produced formic ester and hydrogenating the separated formic ester by allowing a hydrogenolysis catalyst and hydrogen to be present together, thereby obtaining a methanol.
15. (New) A process for producing a methanol, comprising reacting an alcohol in the presence of an alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide, and/or an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst, and a catalyst containing Cu simultaneously with Mn and/or Re to obtain a methanol from carbon monoxide and hydrogen.
16. (New) The production process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide and the alkaline earth metal-type catalyst are a catalyst containing an alkali metal salt and a catalyst containing an alkaline earth metal salt, respectively.

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17. (New) The production process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide and the alkaline earth metal-type catalyst are a catalyst containing an alkali metal salt and a catalyst containing an alkaline earth metal salt, respectively.

18. (New) The production process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide and the alkaline earth metal-type catalyst are a catalyst containing an alkali metal salt and a catalyst containing an alkaline earth metal salt, respectively.

19. (New) The production process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide and the alkaline earth metal-type catalyst are a catalyst containing an alkali metal salt and a catalyst containing an alkaline earth metal salt, respectively.

20. (New) The process for producing a methanol as claimed in claim 2, wherein the hydrogenolysis catalyst is a solid catalyst and the alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide and/or the alkaline earth metal-type catalyst is supported on said solid catalyst and used for the reaction.

21. (New) The process for producing a methanol as claimed in claim 3, wherein the hydrogenolysis catalyst is a solid catalyst and the alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide and/or the alkaline earth metal-type catalyst is supported on said solid catalyst and used for the reaction.

22. (New) The production process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alcohol is a primary alcohol.

23. (New) The production process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the alcohol is a primary alcohol.

24. (New) The production process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the alcohol is a primary alcohol.

25. (New) The production process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the alcohol is a primary alcohol.

26. (New) The production process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the alcohol is a primary alcohol.

27. (New) A catalyst for producing a methanol, which is obtained by loading an alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide, and/or an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst on a solid hydrogenolysis catalyst for formic ester.

28. (New) A catalyst for producing a methanol, which is composed of an alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide, and/or an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst, and a catalyst containing Cu simultaneously with Mn and/or Re.

R E M A R K S

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted to eliminate multiple dependent claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the title by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Versions with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: *October 25, 2001*

By: 
John J. Kelly
Reg. No. 29,182
KENYON & KENYON
One Broadway
New York, NY 10004
Telephone No. (212) 425-7200
Facsimile No. (212)425-5288

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The title has been amended as follows:

-- PROCESS FOR PREPARATION OF FORMATE ESTERS [PRODUCING FORMIC ESTER] OR
METHANOL AND [SYNTHESIS] CATALYST THEREFOR --

Patent Application Serial No. Not Yet Assigned

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